



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SIMMONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2006

CONTACT: JOHN GOODWIN

202/225-2076

MILCON SPENDING BILL BIG FOR SUB BASE

Simmons Delivers Nearly \$10 Million For SUBASE New London

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today praised House passage of the annual military construction bill, calling it “a boon for Groton’s submarine base.” H.R. 5385, the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007, includes nearly \$10 million for an important waterfront improvement project requested by Simmons.

“This is one of the base’s most important projects in recent memory,” Simmons said. “The military construction funding gives Submarine Base New London a face lift that will improve both today’s operations and the future viability of our sub base.”

Simmons led the Connecticut delegation’s successful effort to save the country’s largest submarine base from the 2005 base realignment and closure (BRAC) round. Last year, in the midst of the BRAC fight, Simmons secured \$4.9 million for a crane maintenance facility. The Navy is currently preparing the contract to execute the project.

Simmons pointed out that the U.S. Submarine Force is the workhorse of the Navy in the Global War on Terror, and that the subsurface fleet can meet only 62 percent of mission requests because it lacks numbers. “Sub Base New London is the ‘tip of the spear’ in the Global War on Terror,” said Simmons. “We need more submarines and a modernized base.”

Summary of military construction project contained in the House-passed legislation:

- Waterfront Operations Small Craft Facility (\$9.6M) – Critical to the future of Naval Submarine Base New London, the project would demolish several obsolete buildings and convert two others in order to provide required supply and office space on base. This exchange of space will reduce the permanent population and vendor traffic in the Explosive Safety Arcs, increase efficiency, and lower transportation costs. In support of important base operations, the project will also provide a new guard-shack, relocate a shredder, construct a new fuel oil tank, and repair a small craft launching ramp.

Simmons concluded, “Groton is the Submarine Capital of the world, and the military construction bill reflects that.”

###